UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/843,888	04/30/2001	Lawrence M. Besaw	10006664-1	1150

				EXAMINER
22879	7590	10/11/2005		BATES, KEVIN T

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2155	

DATE MAILED: 10/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/843,888	BESAW, LAWRENCE M.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kevin Bates	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>09 August 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>20-51</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>20-51</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is in response to a communication made on August 9, 2005.

Claims 20, 33, and 43 have been amended.

Claims 1-19 have been previously cancelled.

Claims 20 – 51 are pending in this application.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The serial

numbers of the related cases have been left blank.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 20-51 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 20, 33, and 43 include the limitation "a partition of the network allocated

to said first customer," it is unclear what this allocated network is relating to, whether it

being the secure memory allocated to the client in a secure database system, or a

separate network, related to the topology map and network management system

described in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Polizzi in view of Nordenstam (6442615).

Regarding claims 20 and 43, Polizzi discloses a method for providing

customers of a network management portal secure access to customer information over

a network (Column 3, lines 61 – 67), comprising:

allocating to each customer memory space in a secure storage area (Column 2,

line 66 – Column 3, line 9; Column 10, lines 55 – 60) in a remote network node (Column

3, lines 65 – 67);

storing in a first memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting

from performance of a network management transaction by a web application executed

for said first customer (Column 10, line 66 – Column 11, line 1; Column 6, line 65 –

Column 7, line 1) wherein the information stored in the first memory space comprises

information for display to the customer (Column 2, lines 47 – 49);

transmitting to a requesting web browser a web page having an embedded link to

said web application and said first customer information (Column 6, line 65 – 66;

Column 12, lines 13 – 16);

determining, by a security module invoked by said web browser, whether a

requestor has been authenticated as said first customer by said portal, and, if not,

requesting verification information from said requestor;

comparing, by said web application, previously-inputted or said requested

verification information against said first customer's information stored in a user

configuration database to authenticate said requestor; and

permitting, by said web application, said requestor access to said first memory

space when said verification information matches said particular customer's information

in said database (Column 11, lines 17 – 41; Column 5, lines 43 – 46) such that the

customer may view the stored information for display (Column 2, lines 47 – 49).

Polizzi does not explicitly indicate that said network management transaction

comprises gathering network information regarding a partition of the network allocated

to said first customer.

Nordenstam teaches a system a network management system that comprises

gathering network information regarding a partition of a network and uses this gathered

information in a display for the user (Column 7, lines 34 – 49).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Nordenstam's system of generating topology maps of

networks with Polizzi's disclosure of a portal system providing services and security to a

user while communicating with many types of databases and performing functions

based on the information in those databases and requests (Column 1, lines 29 – 50)

from the user in order to provide Nordenstam's system with better authentication system

of accessing the information and the services needed to simulate the network (Column

8, lines 54 – 60; Column 11, lines 33 – 39).

Regarding claim 33, Polizzi discloses a management information portal for

providing customers access to customer information over a network (Column 3, lines 61

– 67), comprising:

at least one processor;

a secure data storage device coupled to said at least one processor;

a user configuration database of customer verification information;

a security module configured to determine whether a requestor has been

previously authenticated, and, if not, to request verification information from said

requestor(Column 22, line 66 – Column 23, line 7; Column 11, lines 17 – 41); and

a web application configured to allocate to each customer dedicated memory

space in said secure data storage device (Column 2, line 66 – Column 3, line 9; Column

10, lines 55 – 60), and to store in memory space allocated to a first customer

information resulting from performance of a network management transaction by said

web application executed for said first customer (Column 10, line 66 – Column 11, line

1; Column 6, line 65 – Column 7, line 1) wherein the information stored in the first

memory space comprises information for display to the customer (Column 2, lines 47 –

49), to transmit to a web browser a web page having an embedded link to said web

application and said first customer information (Column 6, line 65 – 66; Column 12, lines

13 – 16); to compare previously-inputted or said requested verification information

against said first customer's information stored in said database to authenticate said

requestor; and to permit said requestor access to said first memory space when said

requested verification information matches said first customer's information in said

database (Column 11, lines 17 – 41; Column 5, lines 43 – 46) such that the customer

may view the stored information for display (Column 2, lines 47 – 49).

Polizzi does not explicitly indicate that said network management transaction

comprises gathering network information regarding a partition of the network allocated

to said first customer.

Nordenstam teaches a system a network management system that comprises

gathering network information regarding a partition of a network and uses this gathered

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Nordenstam's system of generating topology maps of

networks with Polizzi's disclosure of a portal system providing services and security to a

user while communicating with many types of databases and performing functions

based on the information in those databases and requests (Column 1, lines 29 – 50)

from the user in order to provide Nordenstam's system with better authentication system

of accessing the information and the services needed to simulate the network (Column

8, lines 54 – 60; Column 11, lines 33 – 39).

Regarding claims 21 and 44, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20 and 43,

wherein determining whether a requestor has been authenticated as said first customer

comprises: invoking said security module in response to said web browser parsing an

attribute in said web application link during activation of said web page by said web

browser (Column 22, line 66 – Column 23, line 7); determining whether said requestor

has been authenticated or logged into said portal as said first customer; and when said

requestor is not authenticated or logged into said portal as said first customer,

requesting, by said security module, that said requestor input verification information

(Column 22, line 66 – Column 23, line 7).

Regarding claim 23 and 46, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20 and 43,

wherein prior to storing in said first memory space information resulting from

performance of a network management transaction, the method further comprises:

providing to each of the customers at least one network service comprising at least one

network management service for one or more of the at least one network service

(Column 11, lines 63 – 65).

Regarding claim 24, Polizzi discloses the method of claim 23, wherein said at

least one network service further comprises one or more of Internet service and email

service (Column 11, lines 63 – 65).

Regarding claim 25, Polizzi discloses the method of claim 23, wherein said at

least one network management service comprises at least one of either monitoring and

troubleshooting for said at least one network service provided to each of the customers

(Column 14, line 45 – Column 15, line 2).

Regarding claims 26, 36, and 47, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20, 33,

and 43, wherein that said network management transaction comprises at least **one of a**

group consisting of: generating a network topology map for a partition of the network

allocated to said first customer; generating a status report based on inputs provided by

said first customer (Column 6, line 61 – Column 7, line 1); and displaying performance

attributes selected by said first customer.

Regarding claims 27, 37, and 48, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20, 33,

and 43, wherein said remote network node comprises said network management portal

(Column 3, lines 61 – 67).

Regarding claims 28, 38, and 49, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20, 33,

and 43, wherein said web application comprises at least one of either a common

gateway interface (CGI) program (Column 3, line 67 – Column 4, line 11) and a Java

servlet (Column 4, lines 19 – 21).

Regarding claims 29, 39, and 50, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20, 33,

and 43, wherein said web application link comprises a hypertext link (Column 12, lines

13 – 16).

Regarding claims 30 and 40, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20 and 43,

wherein said first customer information comprises at least one of either images or data

(Column 10, lines 66 – 67).

Regarding claims 31 and 41, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20 and 43,

wherein said first customer comprises at least one of a group consisting of a

management information system group, a network administrator, and an organization

(Column 5, lines 43 – 46).

Regarding claims 32, 42, and 51, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20 and

43, wherein said verification information comprises at least one of either a customer

identifier and a customer password (Column 11, lines 25 – 27).

Regarding claim 34, Polizzi discloses the portal of claim 33, wherein said web application link comprises an attribute the parsing of which causes invocation of said security application (Column 11, lines 20 – 25).

Regarding claims 22, 35, and 45, Polizzi discloses the method of claims 20, 33, and 43.

Polizzi does not explicitly indicate that storing in a first memory space allocated to a first customer information resulting from performance of a network management transaction comprises: receiving a request from said first customer to generate a topology map; display a list of topology map options for said requested topology; gather from the network topology map-related information based on customer-specified topology map options; and storing in said first memory space said topology map-related information.

Nordenstam discloses receiving a request from said first customer to generate a topology map (Column 11, lines 33 – 50); display a list of topology map options for said requested topology map (Column 10, lines 37 – 53); gather from the network topology map-related information based on customer-specified topology map options (Column 11, lines 1 – 8); and storing in said first memory space said topology map-related information (Column 12, lines 52 – 55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Nordenstam's system of generating topology maps of networks with Polizzi's disclosure of a portal system providing services and security to a user while communicating with many types of databases and performing functions

based on the information in those databases and requests (Column 1, lines 29 – 50)

from the user in order to provide Nordenstam's system with better authentication system

of accessing the information and the services needed to simulate the network (Column

8, lines 54 – 60; Column 11, lines 33 – 39).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20-51 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Kevin Bates whose telephone number is (571) 272-

3980. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KB

KB
October 7, 2005

SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER